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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR and European Satellites

SUBJECT Implications of the New Soviet Agrarian Policy

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In evaluating the turning point in Communist agrarian policy represented by Nikita S Khrushchev's report to the plenary session of the Central Committee on 3 Sep 53, two important aspects of the change should be kept in mind:

- (a) Although Khrushchev's agrarian reforms will not modify the basic structure of the collectivized Soviet agriculture, they will nevertheless permit the pursuit of a milder agricultural policy in East Europe. Concessions to the peasants in Poland, Hungary, Rumania, East Germany and Czechoslovakia should therefore be regarded as a long-range policy which these countries have been ordered to carry out.
- (b) Such an outspoken admission of past errors in one field, namely agriculture, could not have been made without similar critical judgment concerning other important sectors of Communist policy. These other portions of criticism have thus far been kept secret, but further revelations along these lines may be expected, for the serious tension in Soviet society is not limited to the shortcomings in agricultural production. It is most likely that criticism of the police-state methods all attributed to Beria and his Ministry will be included in the next official announcements, possibly going so far as to criticize publicly some of the recent show trials such as that of Slansky's in Prague.

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